GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2254
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2000
OPERATIONAL COST OF RAILWAYS
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government through a white paper had expressed the view two years back that there is a need to reduce the operational cost of railways;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any measures to reduce it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) : Operational cost of Railways is being reduced by keeping a tight control on expenditure on fuel and power consumption, maintenance and repair cost, contractual payments and staff allowances. Reduction in staff costs through better manpower planning is also being pursued. Railways are improving their asset utilisation and enforcing strict inventory controls. Austerity and economy measures are also being enforced in the areas of hospitality, publicity, advertisement, seminars and workshops, contingent office expenses, travel etc. At the same time, to augment resources, increased emphasis is being laid on enhanced revenue generation through better marketing efforts, private sector participation in Railway Projects, and through alternative and innovative avenues of revenue generation like commercial utilisation of railway land and air space, leasing of "right o f way" for optic fibre cables, commercial publicity etc.